

Montana Drought Advisory Committee

USDA NASS Montana Field Office

**Peggy Stringer
Director**

September 10, 2007

August 1 Production Forecast

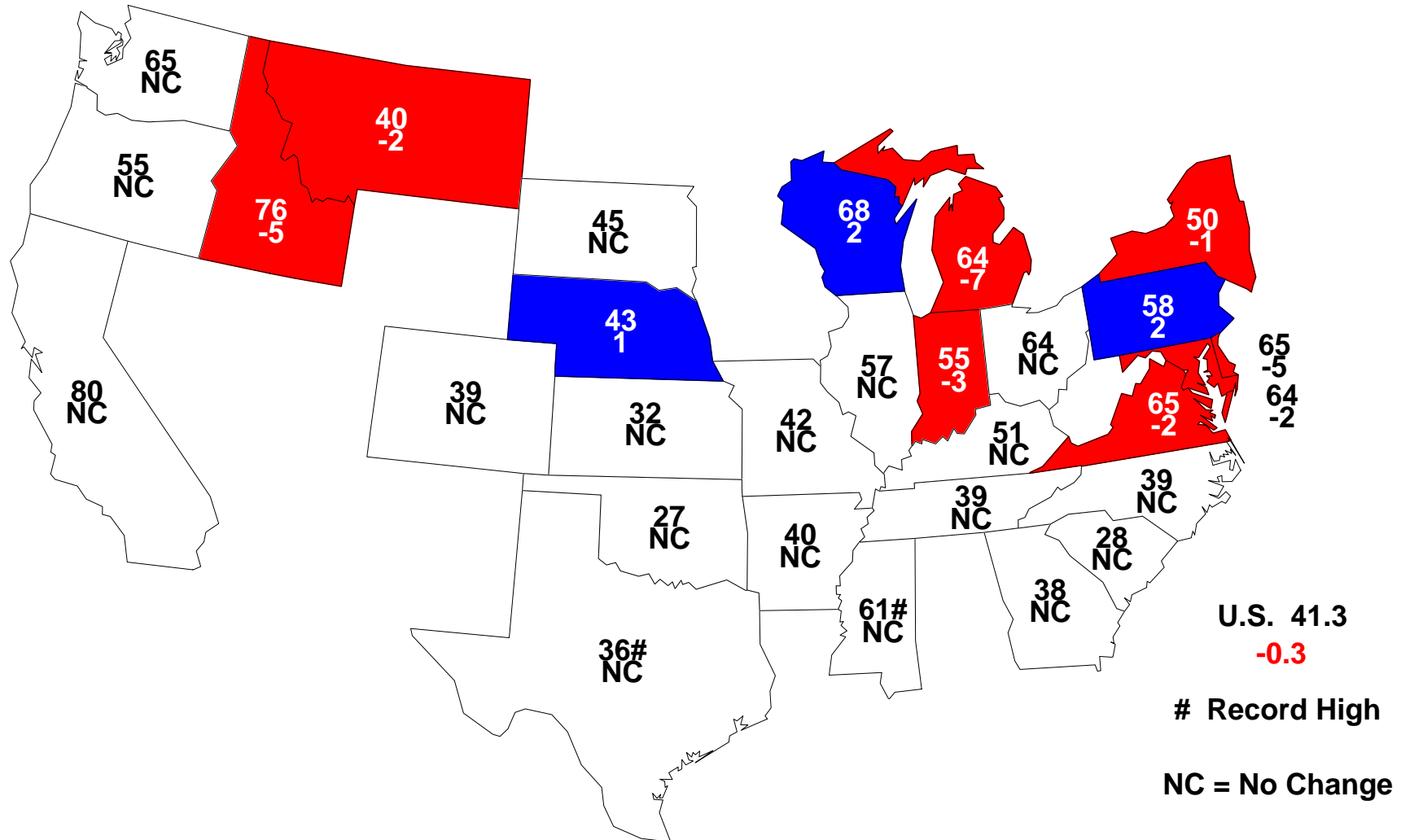


**Hot and dry conditions in
July ripened spring seeded
crops quickly**

**All wheat production is 7% lower
than July forecast but 7% higher
than last year.**

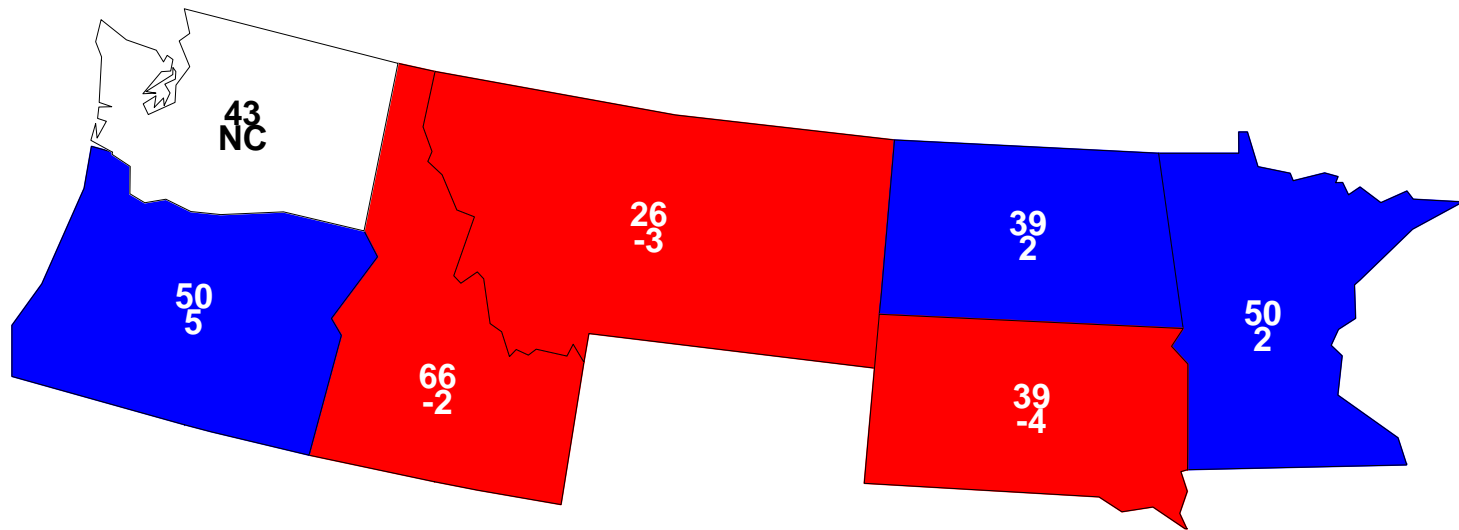
Winter Wheat Yields, August 1, 2007

Bushels and Change From Previous Month



Other Spring Wheat Yields, August 1, 2007

Bushels and Change From Previous Month

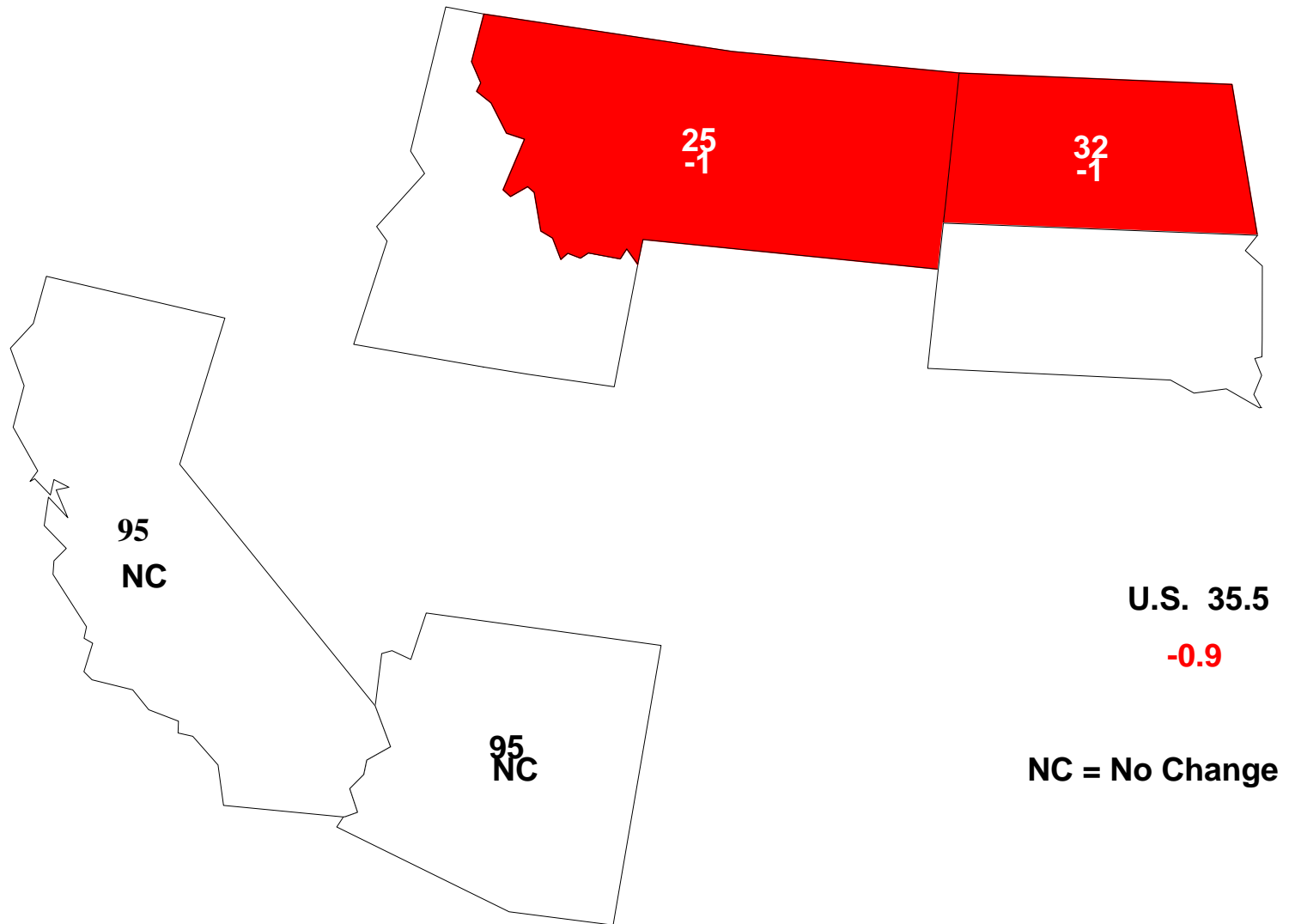


U.S. 39.3
0.2

NC = No Change

Durum Wheat Yields, August 1, 2007

Bushels and Change From Previous Month



Montana's August 2007 Crop Production

Crop	Unit	Aug '07	% Chg from Prev Forecast	% Chg from Prev Season
Winter:				
Harvested	Mil Ac	2.15	NC	+12.0
Yield	Bu/Ac	40.0	-4.8	-7.0
Production	Mil Bu	86.0	-4.8	+4.2
Other Spring:				
Harvested	Mil Ac	2.50	NC	-13.8
Yield	Bu/Ac	26.0	-10.3	+18.2
Production	Mil Bu	65.0	-10.3	+1.9
Durum:				
Harvested	Mil Ac	.53	NC	+32.9
Yield	Bu/Ac	25.0	-3.8	+47.1
Production	Mil Bu	13.1	-3.8	+95.5
All Wheat:				
Production	Mil Bu	164.1	-7.0	+7.2

Montana's August 2007 Crop Production

Crop	Unit	Aug '06	% Chg from Prev Forecast	% Chg from 2006
Barley				
Harvested	Mil Ac	.73	NC	+17.7
Yield	Bu/Ac	51.0	-5.6	+2.0
Production	Mil Bu	37.2	-5.6	+20.1

Montana's August 2007 Crop Production

Crop	Unit	Aug '07	% Chg from 2006
All Hay			
Harvested	(000) Ac	2,550	+12.8
Yield	Tons	1.99	+4.2
Production	(000)Tons	5,075	+17.3
Alfalfa Hay			
Harvested	(000) Ac	1,650	+6.5
Yield	Tons	2.20	+4.8
Production	(000)Tons	3,630	+11.5
Other Hay			
Harvested	(000) Ac	900	+26.8
Yield	Tons	1.60	+6.7
Production	(000)Tons	1,440	+35.2

Winter Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



Harvested acreage

- 2,150,000 acres to be harvested for grain
- 230,000 more harvested acres than last year

Production

- 86.0 million bu
- 3.4 million bu more than last year
- Down 4.3 million bu from July forecast

Winter Wheat August Production Forecast



Yield

- 2007 yield forecast 40.0 bu per acre
 - 2 bu lower than July 1, 2007 forecast
- 2006 yield 43.0 bu per acre
 - 2007 forecast 3 bu lower than last year

Winter Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



On August 1 indications point to a good winter wheat crop

Final winter wheat estimates

Small grains summary released September 28

Spring Planted Crops

**July's hot, dry conditions
ripened crops quickly**

**Progress of spring planted
crops, except durum
wheat, ahead of last year**



Spring Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



Planted acreage

- 2.55 million acres planted
- 400,000 acres less than last year

Acres for harvest

- 2.5 million acres for harvest
- Down 400,000 acres from last year

Spring Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



Production

- Forecast at 65.0 million bu
- Down 7.5 million bu from July 1 forecast
- Up 2% from last year

Yield

- 26.0 bu per ac, down 3 bu from July 1
- 4 bu more than last year

Durum Wheat August 1 Production Forecast



Production

- 13.1 million bu, down 4% from July 1
- Up 95% from last year

Yield

- 25 bu per ac, down 1 bu from July 1
- 8 bu ac more than last year

Barley August 1 Production Forecast



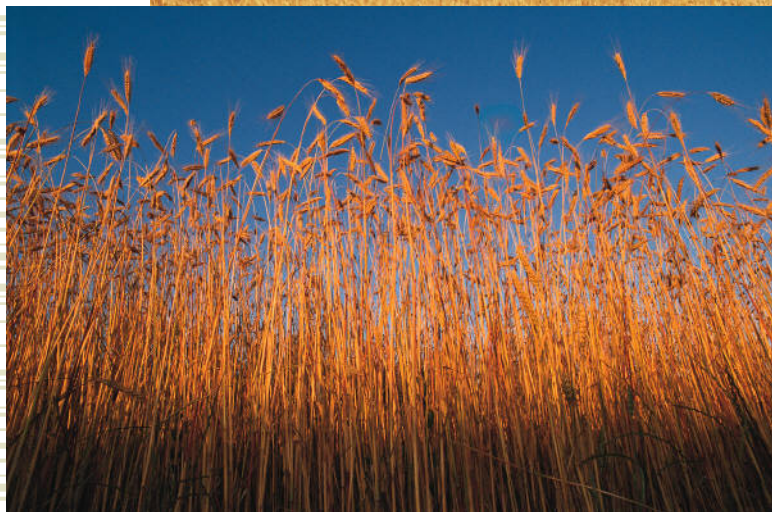
Production

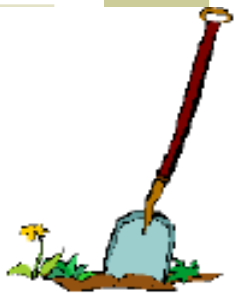
- 37.2 million bu, down 2.2 million bu from July 1 forecast
- Compared with 31.0 million bu last year

Yield

- 51.0 bu per ac, down 3 bu from July 1 forecast
- 1 bu more than last year

Crop Weather for the Week Ending August 12, 2007





Topsoil Moisture Declined from Last Month & 5-Year Average

August 12, 2007	This week	Last Month	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	86%	61%	91%	76%
Adequate	13%	37%	9%	22%
Surplus	1%	2%	0%	2%



Subsoil Moisture Declined from Last Month

August 12, 2007	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr Avg
Very short - short	80%	46%	85%	81%
Adequate	19%	51%	15%	18%
Surplus	1%	3%	0%	1%



Crop Weather Report

Week Ending August 12, 2007

- ◆ Winter wheat harvest nearing completion, behind last year, but ahead of 5-year average
- ◆ Harvest of spring seeded grains ahead of five-year average



Crop Weather Report

Week Ending August 12, 2007

- ◆ Harvest of winter, spring, and durum wheat behind last year, due to hotter temperatures earlier 5 year average
- ◆ Second cutting of hay well underway, ahead of the five-year average

Winter Wheat Progress Behind Last Year, but Ahead of Five Year Average

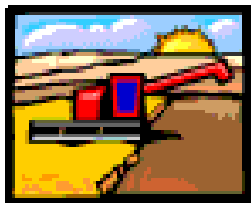


August 12, 2007	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
Winter Wheat Harvested	90%	96%	74%



Spring Wheat Crop Condition Better than Last Year but Behind 5-Yr Average

August 12, 2007	Very poor- Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
This week	38%	31%	26%	5%
Last month	18%	17%	55%	10%
Last year	43%	39%	17%	1%
5-yr avg	28%	33%	32%	7%



Spring Wheat Progress Behind Last Year but Ahead of 5-Yr Avg.

August 12, 2007	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
Spring wheat Harvested	48%	59%	27%

Barley Harvest Ahead of Last Year & 5-Year Average



August 12, 2007	This week	Last year	5-yr avg
Barley Harvested	59%	48%	29%



Barley Crop Condition Worse than Last Year & Five-Yr Average

	Very poor-Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
August 12, 2007				
This week	38%	20%	34%	8%
Last month	26%	15%	48%	11%
Last year	25%	30%	35%	10%
5-yr avg	24%	31%	35%	10%



Alfalfa Hay Harvest Ahead of Last Year & 5-Yr Average

August 12, 2007	This week	Last year	5-yr avg.
Alfalfa hay			
Second cutting	76%	68%	49%
Other hay			
Second cutting	54%	62%	35%

Livestock Grazing



- ◆ Range and pasture conditions ahead of last year and 5-year average
- ◆ Hot, dry weather starting to affect quality of forage
- ◆ Ranchers are beginning to move livestock from summer ranges early because of lack of water and fires



Range & Pasture Conditions Better than Last Year & 5-Year Avg.

August 12, 2007	This week	Last month	Last year	5-yr avg
Very poor-poor	22%	13%	47%	43%
Fair	39%	25%	31%	32%
Good	34%	47%	17%	20%
Excellent	5%	15%	5%	5%

- ◆ Toole County

“Yields are well below average, and yet it's surprising to have anything considering the dry, blistering weather. The higher prices do little good for so many spring grain growers with poor crops.”

- ◆ Liberty County

“Can feel Fall in the morning air. Had 39 degrees one morning last week. If all goes well, I should finish harvest by week's end.”

- ◆ Chouteau County

“Finished harvesting Spring wheat. Sure would be nice to get a good shot of rain really soon. I washed my pickup a couple of days ago, so maybe that will help. Maybe I need to wash another one.”

To Sum It Up

- ◆ Wash your pickup!
- ◆ Winter Wheat yields forecast at 40 bu are 3 bu lower than last year, but 4 bu better than the 10 year average
- ◆ Spring seeded crops have been hit hard by high temperatures and lack of rain

To Sum It Up

- ◆ Ranchers are hauling water to livestock or moving livestock to pastures with water
- ◆ Many producers have moved livestock from summer ranges along the Rocky Mountain Front because of lack of water and fire
- ◆ Range conditions continue to decline
- ◆ Need more precipitation to improve topsoil and subsoil moisture